

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A water-retention ~~dam~~ system for use in a barrier-free or curbless handicapped shower, the water retention system comprising:  
a threshold including a collapsible outer shell that allows unobstructed passage across the threshold when in a compressed state, including the outer shell having an inner chamber, and  
at least one surface for preventing the passage of water, ~~said outer shell having a first and a~~  
first surface configured to serve as a barrier to water and a second surface for attachment to a floor, the second surface having a recess for receiving an adhesive.
2. (Currently Amended) The water-retention ~~dam~~ system as recited in claim 1 wherein said collapsible outer shell is compressible foam.
3. (Currently Amended) The water-retention ~~dam~~ system as recited in claim 1 wherein said collapsible outer shell includes an air-filled chamber.
4. (Currently Amended) The water-retention ~~dam~~ system as recited in claim 1 wherein said first surface is arch-shaped.
5. (Currently Amended) The water-retention ~~dam~~ system as recited in claim 1 further comprising an adhesive tape positioned within the recess, the adhesive applied to the tape.
6. (Currently Amended) The water-retention ~~dam~~ system as recited in claim 8, wherein the adhesive is water-resistant.

7. (Currently Amended) The water-retention ~~dam~~ system as recited in claim 9, wherein the tape is water-resistant.
8. (New) The water-retention system as recited in claim 3 wherein the air-filled chamber enables compression of the collapsible outer shell.
9. (New) The water-retention system as recited in claim 3 wherein a plug seals the opening of the air-filled chamber.
10. (New) The water-retention system as recited in claim 1 wherein said first surface has a generally triangular cross section.
11. (New) The water-retention system as recited in claim 1 further comprising end caps, the end caps attached at the end tips of the collapsible outer shell.
12. (New) The water-retention system as recited in claim 1 wherein the collapsible outer shell is sized and shaped to retain a shower curtain inside the bathing area.
13. (New) The water-retention system as recited in claim 1 wherein the collapsible outer shell extends vertically along the walls of a water-retention area.
14. (New) The water-retention system as recited in claim 13 wherein the vertically extending extension is configured to absorb the impact energy of passage across the threshold.
15. (New) A water-retention threshold comprising:  
a collapsible outer foam shell to allow unobstructed passage across the threshold when in a compressed state, the collapsible outer shell attaching to a floor and extending vertically

along the walls of a water-retention area, the vertically extending extension configured to absorb the impact energy of passage across the threshold;

an air-filled inner chamber, the air-filled inner chamber enabling compression of the collapsible outer shell;

at least one surface configured to serve as a barrier to water, the water-barrier surface being arch-shaped and having a generally triangular cross-section;

a second surface for attachment to a floor, the second surface having a recess for receiving a water-resistant adhesive tape; and

end caps to seal the air-filled inner chamber, the end caps attaching at the end tips of the collapsible outer shell.